

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer system, comprising:
 - 2 a CPU;
 - 3 system memory coupled to said CPU;
 - 4 a system ROM containing system ROM code executable by said CPU;
 - 5 an option device coupled to said CPU; and
 - 6 option ROM code associated with said option device;
- 7 wherein said system ROM code permits an operator to execute said option ROM code.

1 2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein said option ROM code is resident on said option
2 device.

1 3. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said option ROM code is copied to and executed
2 from system memory.

- 1 4. The computer system of claim 1 wherein said system ROM code searches for a predefined
2 signature value when an operator selects an option ROM code to execute, said signature value
3 identifies information pertaining to the location of the system ROM code.

- 1 5. The computer system of claim 4 wherein said signature corresponds to an option ROM
2 configuration entry table, said table includes location values regarding the location of the option
3 ROM code and a device identifier value.

1 6. The computer system of claim 5 wherein said table further includes a mask value that
2 permits multiple types of option devices to use the option ROM code pertaining to a single table.

1 7. A centralized method of configuring a computer system, comprising:
2 (a) configuring one or more aspects of a computer system using system ROM code;
3 (b) permitting an operator to select an option device coupled to said computer system
4 to be configured using said system ROM code; and
5 (c) searching for an option ROM code associated with said option device using said
6 system ROM code; and
7 (d) executing said option ROM code.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein (c) includes searching for a predefined value that indicates
2 the location of a set of information, said set of information includes a location value that is used to
3 determine the location of the option ROM code.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said set of information also includes a device identifier and
2 wherein (c) further includes comparing a device identifier associated with the option device the
3 operator wishes to configure to the device identifier in the set of information.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein (d) includes transferring execution to said location if the
2 device identifiers match in (c).

1 11. The method of claim 7 further including returning to said system ROM code after said
2 option ROM code completes executing.

1 12. A system ROM including executable system ROM code that includes instructions which
2 comprise:

- 3 (a) an instruction that permits an operator to configure a computer system;
4 (b) an instruction that permits an operator to configure one or more option devices
5 within the computer system.

1 13. The system ROM of claim 12 further including an instruction which causes an option ROM
2 code associated with an option device to be executed.

1 14. The system ROM of claim 13 wherein said option ROM code is resident on said option
2 device.

1 15. The system ROM of claim 14 wherein said option ROM code is copied to and executed
2 from RAM memory in said computer system.

1 16. The system ROM of claim 12 wherein the instruction in (b) searches for an option ROM
2 configuration table corresponding to the option device the operator selects to configure.

1 17. The system ROM of claim 16 wherein said table includes offset and segment values to the
2 beginning of an option ROM code associated with said option device.

1 18. The system ROM of claim 17 wherein said table further includes a device identifier which
2 corresponds to said option device.

1 19. The system ROM of claim 18 further including an instruction which compares a device
2 identifier obtained from the operator's selection of a device to be configured to the device identifier
3 in said table.